

3. (Amended) The clamp of claim 2, wherein the width of the [first] at least one shim is at least one and a half times the width of the U-bolt.

61 4. (Amended) The clamp of claim 1, wherein the [first] at least one shim has a generally rectangular cross-section.

5. (Amended) The clamp of claim 1, wherein the [first] at least one shim is arranged and configured to separate the U-bolt and saddle member [from] from a structure desired to be clamped.

6. (Amended) The clamp of claim 5, wherein the U-bolt and saddle member are zinc-plated, and the [first] at least one shim is made of aluminized steel.

62 8. (Amended) The clamp of claim 1, wherein the [first] at least one shim comprises a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, and the [clamp] at least one shim also includes a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim, and the first and second curved shims each forming substantially a half-cylinder.

9. (Amended) A clamp comprising:  
a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;  
a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;  
a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved shim being made of metal;  
a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the second shim being made of metal, and the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim; and

[The clamp of claim 8,] wherein the first curved shim is secured to the saddle member by a snap-fit connection.

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12. (Amended) A clamp comprising:

a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;

a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;

a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved shim being made of metal;

a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the second shim being made of metal, and the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim; and

[The clamp of claim 8,] wherein the saddle member is formed by two opposing spaced-apart saddle plates, and the first curved shim includes at least one shim projection that extends between the saddle plates to limit movement and provide alignment between the saddle member and the first curved shim.

13. (Amended) A clamp comprising:

a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;

a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;

a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved shim being made of metal;

a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the second shim being made of metal, and the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim; and

[The clamp of claim 8,] wherein the second curved shim is secured to the U-bolt by a snap-fit connection.

Please cancel claims ~~17-20~~.

Please add new claims 21-25 as follows.

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21.

(New) A clamp comprising:

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a saddle member having a concave saddle portion;

a U-bolt mounted on the saddle member, the U-bolt having a concave portion oriented opposed to the saddle member concave saddle portion;

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cont. a first curved shim secured to the saddle member concave saddle portion, the first curved shim being made of metal;

a second curved shim secured to the U-bolt concave portion, the second shim being made of metal, and the first curved shim having a concave side opposed to a concave side of the second curved shim; and

the first curved shim covering at least a central, mid-region of the concave saddle portion.

~~18~~  
~~22~~ (New) The clamp of claim ~~21~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the first curved shim covers the entire concave saddle portion.

~~19~~  
~~23~~ (New) The clamp of claim ~~21~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the first curved shim forms a half-cylinder.

~~20~~  
~~24~~ (New) The clamp of claim ~~21~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the U-bolt includes legs, and the second curved shim includes outwardly projecting ears defining openings for receiving the legs of the U-bolt.

~~21~~  
~~25~~ (New) The clamp of claim ~~21~~<sup>17</sup>, wherein the clamp includes only two shims.